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Rules of BloodClan

"The ringed tail and the dappled turtle have come...."

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Rules:

Do not feed any cat but yourself. If you are unable to hunt for yourself, with the exceptions of queens and kits, you must be cast out or killed.

If a kit is born a runt, or with any disabilities, kill them. If the mother refuses, the rest of the litter is killed and they are made prisoner for three moons.

Prisoners get only berries once a day. No water, no prey. They sleep on the flat rocks near the leaders den.

Anycat caught trying to run away is killed publicly with either torture or deathberries.

Leaders word is law. Anycat who speaks otherwise is killed publicly with either torture or with deathberries.

Anyone caught disobeying these rules is killed publicly with either torture of deathberries.

Kits are apprenticed when they pass the apprenticeship test. Same for apprentices to warriors.

Use claws while training and testing.

Allegiances

BloodClan
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Leader- Morningstar- orange tabby she cat with blue eyes

Deputy- none

MC- Nightgaze- grey tom with blind blue eyes

MCA- Splashflight- small black tom with white paws, muzzle and belly

Warriors-

Violetgaze- pale cream she cat with violet eyes.

Treevice- caramel colored tom

Ryeflight- tan tom with green eyes.

Firegaze- white tom with fire yellow eyes

Snowtip- black and white she cat with a white tail tip

Cameltail- tan grey she cat

Spottedfern- spotted hairless she cat

Venomrain- shy she cat with long sharp claws that she rarely uses because she thinks its impolite

Apprentices-

Fishpaw- strong, fierce white she cat with long claws and one red front paw. M: Morningstar

Heronpaw- small maroon tom with stunning amber eyes. M: Snowtip

Queens-

Brightshine- orange tabby with one eye due to early birth. Nursing Lemurkit and Turtlekit

Kits-

Lemurkit- white she kit with an orange striped tail

Turtlekit- dappled brown she cat

Chapter 1

Lemurkit lay in the crook of her mother's belly, suckling. She listened to her sister play.

"Lemurkit! Come on, open your eyes? I wanna go outside!! Its boring in this stupid den..." Lemurkit could just see her sister pouting.

Their mother, Brightshine touched her tail to Lemurkit's head for a heartbeat, then moved it to Turtlekit's. "Now, Turtlekit. Don't rush your sister... You can play just fine in here," she said gently. Lemurkit smiled as her mother said the last words. "Your sister and your sister alone chooses when its time."

Yep. Thats what I'll do! Lemurkit thought with a happy smile. Then, just wanting to impress her sister, she smiled. *And I'll do it right now!*

She squinted her eyes tightly, scrunching her tiny delicate nose and taking a deep breath. "Ready, Turtlekit?" Lemurkit boasted. Then, she pushed open her eyes, expecting a bright array of colors, or a giant rainbow swirling around her mother's golden tabby pelt. But all she saw was a brighter dark. Lemurkit wanted to wail in fear.

"Why can't I see?!"

Brightshine gasped and quickly slapped her tail over her mouth. "Don't let Morningstar hear you, love!" She whispered, and Lemurkit suddenly felt a new fear. She knew what Morningstar did to kits that wern't normal... She had lost her own brother to it, according to Brightshine. She widened her big blue eyes with fear.

"M-Mom, what's gonna happen to me?" She whispered, curling her fluffy striped tail around her paws. Her mother pulled her close, brushing back her long fur that always tended to fall in front of Lemurkit's eyes.

"Shh... Baby, you'll be fine. Just listen to everything I say, and I will

keep you safe..."

Lemurkit whimpered and leaned in closer to her sister. "What do I do?" She whispered.

"Act normal. If Morningstar doesn't know, she won't think to hurt you. You'll be fine, my love... StarClan made you for a reason and they won't let us down now..." Her mother soothed. Lemurkit nodded with another sniff, and let her mother soothe her to sleep. It was only just before she drifted off that she realized her what her mother said.

Created me for a reason?

Chapter 2

Lemurkit woke with a contented yawn, stretching her limbs and shaking her fluffy tail. She was now three moons, and getting the hang of walking around. She got up and sniffed. No scent of her mother or her sister, but she could smell Snowtip, whom had moved to the nursery this morning expecting Ryeflight's kits. Lemurkit tumbled over to her, her big wide eyes staring in what she hoped was the general direction of her face.

"Snowtip?" Lemurkit could hear the gentle snore of her sleep, so she reached out a paw and gently tapped her side. "Snowtip?"

Snowtip gave a groggy yawn. "Y-Yeah, Lemurkit?" She mumbled, with a stretch. Lemurkit tipped her head to one side.

"Where'd my mom go?" She asked.

Snowtip's nest crinkled, and Lemurkit guessed she was sitting up. "Didn't you hear? Morningstar's announcing Fishpaw a warrior." Heronpaw had failed his test and was badly injured by his sister. He was spending the next moon with Splashflight tending to his infected eye.

Lemurkit smiled and bounced out. "Wow! A real warrior ceremony!!" She purred, and raced out. Stumbling around and sniffing for her mother, she bumped into someone with an 'oof!'

"Oops, sorry!" Lemurkit stammered, when she heard a grumble from the cat in front of her.

"I swear, it's like the kits these days are *blind*..." Fishpaw growled and Lemurkit backed away in fear.

"N-No I'm not!" She whimpered, and Fishpaw snorted.

"*Sure*... Watch your paws then!!!" She retorted and stalked away, the leaves crunching in her wake. Lemurkit shivered and placed her

was more carefully this time, until she scented her mother and ran up.

"Mommy! Mommy! Fishpaw's gonna be a warrior!" Turtlekit chanted. Lemurkit purred. She pranced around with her sister, until she stubbed her paw on an uprooted tree trunk.

"Ow!" She whimpered, and Brightshine leaned down to lick her kit.

"Shh! Be quiet, someone could hear you!" Lemurkit shook her head and nodded.

"Yep. Sorry mommy." Lemurkit mewed and settled down beside her thighs. Her sister did the same, on the other side, and they both turned their eyes to the rock to watch. Lemurkit felt fearful she wasn't looking in the right direction. She tapped her mother with her tail.

"Doing great, love," Brightshine whispered and stroked her with her tail.

Lemurkit nodded with satisfaction and pricked her ears to listen.

"All cats strong enough to kill gather beneath bloodrock!" Morningstar growled from her perch and Lemurkit smiled. Finally, the ceremony was starting!

Chapter 3

"Fishpaw has won the training test against her brother and has proved worthy to become a warrior. I am quite proud to invite my own strong, determined, and fierce apprentice up today. Fishpaw!" Morningstar yowled. Mumbled disapproval hinted in scattered places throughout the crowd while she spoke. Fishpaw gave a smug look to her brother, who, injured as he was, was sitting near Splashflight, his one good eye squinting with anger and shame, while his other was puffy and red.

Lemurkit listened intently while Morningstar called out the words she had called traditional. From what Brightshine told her, Morningstar had created all these traditions when she killed Aquastar, but anyone who stood up to her was killed, so she always spoke in a hushed tone about it.

"Fishpaw, the Dark Forest has made a wise warrior of you. I call down upon my dark ancestors to fill this young cat with the same wisdom and power you have me, and give her the blessing of my success. In your great glorious light, I am pleased to announce the first official warrior of BloodClan. Fishpaw, I name you Fishfang. May the blood of many rest in your paws."

After a pause of hesitance, a scattered few repeated her words. "May the blood of many rest in your paws," mumbled Brightshine, and Lemurkit could tell she was not happy about it. Lemurkit repeated the words too, afraid Morningstar would do something if she didn't.

Fishfang turned and yowled in triumph, before her clattering paws led her down the bloodrock. Morningstar let out the closing yowl and the clan disbursed, some cats mumbling in anger.

"Aquastar would be ashamed..." Lemurkit heard someone say.

"What a savage clan we are!" Another agreed before someone hushed them.

Lemurkit let out a tiny squeak. "Turtlekit, let's go play Warriors!" She cried, feeling enthusiastic. Turtlekit bounced around, cheering.

"Yeah! Lets go!" She raced ahead, and Lemurkit sniffed wildly to follow. She smiled and leaped up, landing squarely on her sister and tackling her.

"Ha! I finally got you!" Lemurkit cheered proudly, and her sister swiped at her cheek playfully, and the two sisters tumbled about with happiness, in a whirling, laughing ball of multicolored fur. Then Lemurkit gave a big lurch and pushed herself on top of her sister, placing a big paw on her chest.

"I won!" She declared with pride, and Turtlekit laughed.

"You did, Lemurkit! Good for you!" Lemurkit lifted her chin with pride and puffed out her chest. *I can do anything!* She thought, and smiled. *I can be the best warrior out there. And I will.*

Chapter 4

"Morningstar, I've found these two tiny kits in the forest!"

Lemurkit opened her eyes to a wail of terror. She bolted out of her nest and shook her mother.

"Mom! What are they gonna do? We can't let Morningstar hurt them! Can you do something?" She whispered. Brightshine stroked her daughter soothingly.

"Don't fret my love. I'll do anything to save a helpless kit. It's the warrior code, be me in a savage clan or a wonderful one, I must follow it. You stay and protect your sister," she commanded. And with a gentle lick on her forehead, she swooped out of the den gracefully.

Turtlekit pressed against her sister, eyes wide as she gave Lemurkit a play-by-play. "Looks like Fishfang found a few kits. I wonder what Morningstar will do to the black one? He's got a broken jaw!" Her sister whispered fearfully.

As if by magic, Fishfang growled. "Shall I kill this one, Morningstar? Will he be of use to us?" Lemurkit narrowed her blind eyes. *Not if I have a say!!*

Before Morningstar could respond, Turtlekit grabbed her sister. "Venomrain, no..." She whispered, and Lemurkit guessed she had stepped forward to confront her daughter.

"Fishfang, how could you say that?!" Venomrain cried in horror. "You're kinder than that! What has Morningstar done to corrupt you so?" Lemurkit could almost feel the sadness and disappointment in her voice as if it were her own. She shivered, a pit of dread filling her stomach.

Turtlekit wrapped a fearful tail around Lemurkit, and Lemurkit did as well. "Oh no... Venomrain, no..." She heard her sister whisper,

and Lemurkit clenched her teeth. The knot in her belly grew stronger.

"Turtlekit, look away." She commanded her sister, and Turtlekit's whiskers moved up and down beside her in a nod, grazing her cheeks with a tiny tickle. She buried her face in Lemurkit's neck. Lemurkit closed her eyes too, though is didn't matter, clutching Turtlekit. She fought to keep them closed when she heard a growl and a pained yelp, then a cry of grief. All was still except for a lone cat, sobbing quietly. The reek of blood hung in the eerily still air. Lemurkit tapped her sister, who was clutching her shoulders with thorny claws. Lemurkit felt tears wet her back when her sister rose.

"V-Venomrain..." She whispered. Lemurkit nodded. "F-Fishfang *k-killed* her..."

Then came a honey throated purr.

"Great work, my fine, fine warrior. You chose loyalty to me over your ungrateful mother. You have trained well. As for *Heronpaw*, you will be held prisoner for six moons for your ridiculous behavior! I should kill you now, seeing as you intervened, but that would be three deaths in a day. Now, Fishfang, yes. Kill the weak one." Said Morningstar. Her words ended in a menacing growl and Lemurkit screamed in her head. *No!*

Chapter 5

"Lemurkit, Fishfang's gonna kill the one with the broken jaw! What are we going to do?!" Her sister whispered frantically. Lemurkit shook her head.

"Brightshine will save him. I am sure." She said firmly. Something told her nothing more would happen. She knew, she would bet her own life on it.

Turtlekit nodded tightly. "Brightshine just shoved Fishfang aside! Oh, StarClan help her!" Turtlekit whispered. Lemurkit smiled.

"Don't worry, Turtlekit. I know she will succeed."

No sooner had the words left her lips when her mother yowled. "*Stop!* I will care for both kits, no matter what. He has no mental or physical defects that disimprove his performance! Therefore he would make a fine addition to our fair clan! Am I not right?" Lemurkit purred to herself. Wise words, mother. There was a long and thoughtful pause, and Lemurkit heard Turtlekit bite a claw-sheathe.

Then Morningstar shifted her long tabby tail. "Very well. I see a point in this. He will be Brokenkit, and the other will be Fangkit. You are dismissed. Heronpaw, go to the correct den tonight," she added with a snarl to the tom. "Splashflight is not permitted to heal you. You are to heal yourself until you are a full member again." And with that Morningstar stalked away silently to her den, leaving silent murmurs of confusion to ripple throughout the crown that had gathered. A burial patrol came to drag Venomrain's lifeless body roughly away to dig a grave.

"She did it!" Turtlekit cheered quietly. "Oh StarClan she did it!" Lemurkit nodded, shoving her sister playfully.

"Told you!" She purred. "She was fine!" And with a big yawn, she curled around her sister again, preparing to resume her sleep.

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(Three moons later. Lemurkit is now four moons)

Lemurkit opened her eyes. Sensing the presence of Brokenkit, she laughed. "Hi Brokenkit." She purred, happy to see her friend.

Brokenkit's return was hesitant, but his response was abrupt and straightforward. He tipped his head to one side. "What are you looking at?"

Lemurkit felt a chill go through her spine. "I-I wasn't looking at anything! I w-was looking at you!" She stammered, wrapping her tail nervously around her paws. She was painfully aware of the sweat burning her forehead. It felt like acid, burning her skin with guilt and fear.

Brokenkit paused. "No, Lemurkit. You were staring at my right ear..." He gave another thoughtful pause. Lowering his voice, he touched his tail to her shoulder. "Are you blind?" He whispered.

Chapter 6

Lemurkit almost blurted out a cry of fear, but she quickly covered her mouth with a forepaw and acted like she was coughing. It was all she could do to stop herself from swishing her tail-tip back and fourth to show her fear. She shifted her paws uneasily.

What do I do?! She wailed to herself.

Lie! Part of her mind told her.

No! Tell him the truth! He is your friend and he faced the execution too! He'll understand!

But he was too young to remember that! He lives by the same rules as everyone else!

But he's different *than everyone else!!*

Lemurkit tried to make sense of it all. *Stop it!!* She cried to herself, desperately trying to stop the bickering.

"Well?" Brokenkit prompted. Lemurkit took a deep breath.

"Why would I be alive if I were blind?! Morningstar would've killed me by now!" She said, trying to keep her voice steady. "Of course I can see!"

Brokenkit didn't respond right away. "Which is the perfect reason for your mother to hide it," he mumbled, Lemurkit guessed, to himself. But Lemurkit's hearing was almost doubled, to make up for sight. Lemurkit almost sighed with relief when he didn't respond right away yet again, thinking the conversation was over. She turned to go. "What color are my eyes?" Brokenkit spoke up suddenly.

Lemurkit stopped dead in her tracks. Her heart thumped so loud it was impossible for the whole world not to hear. "Uhm..." She shifted her paws nervously, a cold sweat pouring down her face.

"What color are my eyes, Lemurkit?" He asked again, his voice soft but firm.

"Uh... Green?" She answered, her mind whirling. *Please be right... Please be right!* She screamed desperately in her mind, squeezing her eyes shut.

"Blue," Brokenkit said. "Don't worry, Lemurkit. I won't tell. But why did you lie to me?" He asked gently. Lemurkit sighed with relief.

"I was scared that if I told, someone would hear. And my mother told me not to tell anyone, even my most trusted friends." She answered in a hushed tone. Brokenkit tipped his head to one side.

"Not even your father?" Lemurkit shook her head.

"Brightshine refuses to admit we have a father, Brokenkit..." She said. Then a thought came into her head.

What if her father was in the clan, just forbidden? Brightshine did visit the medicine den very often, she seemed to always have some sort of mild sickness that never was contagious. What if her father was *Splashflight?*

Lemurkit's eyes widened at this. "Got to go, Brokenkit..." She mumbled and raced off. She had to figure this out.

Chapter 7

Lemurkit raced through the nursery entrance, her eyes narrowed and determined. She scented her mother immediately and marched up to her. "Mom, who is our father?" She demanded, her tail almost lashing. She was angry. How could her own mother had kept such an important secret from her?

Brightshine was baffled. "What?" She answered, clearly confused. Lemurkit rolled her eyes.

"Mom, you know what I said. I'm not a kit anymore. I'm almost five moons, you can tell me! Why have you kept our father a secret so so long?" She demanded again. Before her mother could respond, she narrowed her eyes. "I don't like lies!"

"Lemurkit, the identity of your father is my secret, and mine to tell *alone*. And you will not make me tell you sooner!" Her mother exploded unexpectedly. Lemurkit jumped. What had just happened? Her mother had never yelled at her kit before!

"Now, you will *not* ask me about your father again until I have decided it is the right time to tell you, understood?" Her mother instructed firmly. Clearly her father was a touchy subject.

"Yes mother," Lemurkit mumbled. "Sorry..."

Brigtshine's voice softened. "Oh baby... It's for your own safety. If you knew, you would be in twice as much danger as you are now. I lie because I love you, my precious kit..." She stroked Lemurkit's forehead gently. "Now, go to sleep, love. It's naptime..."

Lemurkit obeyed, her eyes drooping anyways. She yawned. "Alright... Goodnight, mother..." And with that she wafted away to sleep.

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"Hello? Is anyone there?" Lemurkit yelled, as she padded around an unfamiliar forest. The ground was mucky and red, and the trees were silhouettes of dead fingers, reaching out to haunt you. Their long, spindly limbs seemed to reach and pull againstt the tree to grab Lemurkit. She shivered.

Her paws sunk into the boggy ground with a squelch, and bloodred stains spread across her white fur, soaking it with a stinking ooze. She tried to take another step, but her paws were rooted, capsulated in the ground like a sitting duck. She began to panic.

"Hello?! Help me! Help me please!" Lemurkit began to wail, her eyes wide as she struggled to pull herself free. But the more she pulled, the more her paws dragged her farther under the muck. "Help!"

A faint shadow slinked along the bushes slowly. Lemurkit's eyes fixed on the creature, and she let out a throaty scream. "Help me! Please help me! I don't want to die!!" She wailed. The shadow paused, and began to pad slowly over to her.

Chapter 8

"Help! Help me, please! Oh, thank you!" Lemurkit's paws trembled. The muck had pulled her all the way down to her belly, sticky with warm, oozing bloody mud.

The shadow moved closer, cruel and beady red eyes boring into her like knives. Lemurkit's smile faltered when she saw glinting teeth and claws, sharper than a hawks talons. Lemurkit felt a shiver up her spine. Her body was submerged up to her shoulders now, she had to take the risk.

The shadow was moving closer still, and she could see blood everywhere... She stared up at the shape in fear, her heat thumping.

"P-Please help me..." She whimpered. The cat grinned evilly, his eyes boring into her. Was he enjoying this?

"You pathetic kit!" His voice was tough and gravelly, stern and guarded with distaste. The cats teeth were stained permanently pink with blood. Reaching down, he tugged violently at her scruff until she was pulled loose with an ear splitting *squelch* as the blood-mud tried one last time to suck her up. The shadowy cat trotted away, still carrying Lemurkit and making no move to release her.

"Thank you..." She whispered, still trembling. The cat ignored her. They trotted throughout the red mist, weaving between trees and muck pools such as the one Lemurkit had stumbled upon with ease.

Suddenly the mist parted. Through the stench of blood, Lemurkit could barely smell other cats, but mostly the overwhelming scent of fear. The shadowy cat brushed past the bushes into a clearing filled with fierce cats, and beside each one was a tiny kitten, hogtied into place with vines. A sitting duck... The cat carrying Lemurkit sprinted to the end of the line of terrified kits, and nodded to another trio of scary cats. They hurried over.

Lemurkit looked up at the cat carrying her. He set her down near

the end of the line of kits and tied her down, then nodded to the other cats. They moved to the start and Lemurkit heard pleas of fear, begging for mercy. The shadows were moving down the line, killing each kit. Suddenly a soft paw touched Lemurkit's fear ridden shoulder and shushed her.

"Lemurkit, go fulfill your destiny! Go!" The starry she cat urged, and Lemurkit felt the vines disappear. She stared, wide eyed at her. The cat pushed her. "GO!!"

Lemurkit ran as fast as she could, but the shadows were chasing her. She weaved blindly through the mist, tripping desperately away from her attackers. She could just imagine the claws of the shadows boring into her hips and tearing her to pieces. She felt tears of fear run down her eyes, them she stopped. Dead end.

She turned to see the cats circling her. She closed her eyes and uttered a desperate prayer.

"Silly kit, StarClan can't help you here. You're crow-food!" The leading cat growled, and the cats leaped at her, and everything was dark.

Chapter 9

Lemurkit woke with a trembling scream of fear, and Brightshine immediately rushed to her aid. "Whats wrong, baby?!" She fussed, brushing the stray hair from Lemurkit's forehead. Lemurkit's lower lip trembled, and her blind eyes darted around, trying to adjust to lack of sight after such a vivid dream. Her mother soothed her.

"Shh... Shh, baby. It'l be alright.... It was just a dream," Brightshine whispered, letting Lemurkit lean in on her shoulder. "What happened, baby?"

Lemurkit shuddered at the memory. "There was a scary forest..... and it had icky smelling mud, that stained my paws-" she broke off with a yelp as she raised a paw to feel for wetness, and sure enough, it was soaked to the bone with blood. Lemurkit's mouth was turned down and trembling in fear. "I got stuck in one, mom. I almost drowned, until a big shadow cat saved me! But then he took me to a big clearing and..." Lemurkit gave a vivid description of her fading dream as the biggest details began to disappear from her mind. But the one thing that stuck in her mind before she woke upp, in the silence that followed her attack, just before she woke up but after the dream ended, the thing that *really* sent a chill down her spine were the words she heard.

"The lake of blood will grow with every strke. Kits will drown in an endless river of blood and pain and the clan will be wiped out. Only the ringed tail and the dappled turtle will deliver us from the fatal morning star..."

But the thing that made Lemurkit uneasy were the words that followed.

"Go follow your destiny..." The voice was commanding her. "GO, NOW! *SAVE US!!!!!"*

Finally the voice was screaming. And then she woke up. Telling her mother of the horrific tale almost made her retch in terror, but she

set her jaw and move on. "What does it mean, mom?" She whispered. Her paws were squeezing her tail tightly and writhing aroud, fidgeting.

Her mother paused for a long, long moment. "Well... for starters, we need to get you two apprenticed. You are six moons in a few sunrises, and I need to get out on a patrol or two," Her mother joked. "We can also go see Splashflight, and he can maybe interpret your dream," she finished thoughtfully, and Lemurkit nodded. Even the thought of apprenticeship didn't cheer her.

What's happening to me? Her head wailed. *I can't save an entire clan!!*

Chapter 10

"All cats old enough to kill gather beneath the bloodrock to hear my words!"

Morningstar's yowl rang clear in the still morning. Lemurkit trotted half-heartedly out of the nursery beside her bouncing sister, and trained her eyes to the direction of the BloodClan leader.

"Lemurkit, we're gonna be warriors!!! Aren't you excited?!" Her sister was absolutely *dying* of excitement. Lemurkit gave a grumble.

"What's so great about being a warrior here? All we do is practice killing innocent kits and casting out the weak! Hardly anything to be happy about," Lemurkit said with a growl. Turtlekit stopped bouncing, and made a face. She poked her sister's side angrily.

"Well, you're entitled to your opinion, but there's no need to be such a spoil sport!" She retorted angrily. "I was just excited, thats all! But now you've gone and ruined it!!" Turtlekit pouted, and Lemurkit heard her stomp away. Lemurkit reached out a paw to stop her, realizing what she had done.

"Turtlekit I didn't mea-" she broke off, knowing it was pointless. With a dejected sigh, she waited for Morningstar to call her name.

"Turtlekit, do you know and wish to serve our Dark Forest ancestors' every plea, even at the cost of death?" Morningstar began. Lemurkit curled her lip in disgust.

What kind of clan are we?!

Turtlekit squealed with pleasure. "I do! I do!" She shouted as loud as she could. Lemurkit rolled her eyes.

"Then by the powers of the Dark Forest, I name you Turtlepaw. Fishfang will mentor you." Morningstar unsheathed her claw and pressed it into Turtlepaw's shoulder, bringing it down to slice her

with the Apprentice Scar. If you flinched, you were not apprenticed.

The clan cheered. Lemurkit stepped up next. "Lemurkit, do you know and wish to serve our Dark Forest ancestors' every plea, even at the cost of death?" Lemurkit let out an undertoned growl, and paused. Everything in her being told her to speak up against this, but her brain told her to save it. She took a deep breath and thought.

Before she could stop herself, she stared straight at Morningstar and said, "I say I do only because I know what happens if I don't. Yet I don't fear it. Do whatever you like to me, I don't care!" She said. Lifting her chin, she heard a terrified gasp from her mother.

Morningstar steamed with anger. "I will mentor you, and trust me, I'll teach you a FEW things about *RESPECT*!" She unsheathed her claws and slapped Lemurkit's face, and Lemurkit stood tall. She didn't back down. Then Morningstar gave her the Apprentice Scar and Lemurpaw stepped back confidently, her bleeding face held tall and proud as she trotted to her mother.

Chapter 11

Brightshine ushered her to the medicine den as soon as the closing yowl was heard, and took another slap to the face when she refused to let Morningstar start training right away.

"She can't train with that cut! You put it deeper than needed! Shes limping!" Brightshine had protested.

Morningstar only shrugged. "Thats her problem. Do what you want, she's training tomorrow though," she said and stalked off. Brightshine ignored her own blood dripping down her nose and licked her daughter's face lovingly.

"Let's go see Splashflight," she soothed. "Come on..."

*****

Lemurpaw stared into the black nothingness. "Hello?"

A gleaming pair of red eyes stood out in the blackness. "Save us!" It hissed, eyes evil slits.

Lemurpaw backed away. "W-What do I d-do?! H-How?" She cried, shaking her head in fear. Suddenly her paws stepped on air, and she was dangling from an invisible cliff, paws scrabbling for a hold.

"Help me!" She screamed. The gleaming eyes hissed.

"*You* didn't help us! Why should we help *you?"* It said in an echoed voice, grating Lemurpaw's ears like claws on twoleg metal. "You shouldn't ignore us and expect help!" Lemurpaw's claws were slipping. Hanging by five claws, four, three, two...

"Help! Please!!!" Lemurpaw cried again. The shadowy cat snorted, and placed a paw on Lemurpaw's slipping claws.

"Help yourself!!" It cackled and pushed her, and Lemurpaw was falling, screaming, hurtling in the black abyss until she heard a

thud, a throbbing pain shot through her, and then... Peace.

*****

"Wake up, you little twit! It's time for training!" Morningstar poked her sharp claws into Lemurpaw's back. She winced.

"Coming!" She cried, hurrying to the entrance of the den. Her side throbbed, as if her dream was real. But then, how would she be alive? She fell off a cliff!

With a groan, she pulled herself to the entrance of the camp. "Can I eat first?" She asked, rubbing her eyes. Her belly chose this time to let out an indignant growl. Morningstar growled, but didn't respond. She padded forward.

Lemurpaw struggled after her, trying to keep up. "What are we doing today?" Lemurpaw asked.

Morningstar grunted. "Combat. You will fight your sister, claws out, to show what you know. Then we will train." She said flatly. Lemurpaw shivered.

Fight her sister?

Chapter 12

Morningstar shoved Lemurpaw forward, and Lemurpaw guessed she was standing in a clearing, her sister facing opposite to her. She crouched, lashing her tail in distaste, and let out a growl of anger. How could she fight her sister, her best friend, how could she possibly hurt her? The thought of it made her skin run cold.

Lemurpaw's senses seemed extra alert. She twitched as the sound of Morningstar's paws crunched towards the middle of the clearing to her right. She heard the rustle of fur as her tail curled round her paws. She even heard the intake of her leader's breath before she spoke.

"Begin."

Without hesitation Turtlepaw leaped at her sister, taking Lemurpaw by surprise. She felt her sister's claws dig deep into her shoulder where Morningstar had struck her, and she felt her claws twist under the skin. Lemurpaw barely felt the agony. She was infuriated at her sister. Her tail was shaking with anger. How could her sister hurt her in such a way?!

Lemurpaw ripped herself away from her sister, tail lashing, blood pouring from the reopened wound in her shoulder, and crouched. Her sister did the same, judging by the sound of her pawsteps, perfectly in sync with Lemurpaw's. They moved around in a slow, tense circle.

Lemurpaw swiveled her ears around, and smelled. She made tiny clicks under her breath, and she could almost hear the sounds bouncing off her sister. By now she had a clear image in her mind of what was happening. She launched herself at her sister, landing squarely on her back, and winced at her cry of pain as she ran her claws down her hips and sides. Turtlepaw bucked underneath her, and Lemurpaw leaped up, knowing there was a tree above her. She clung to the tree with strong claws, and turned around, still making tiny clicks.

Her sister was growling, and almost underneath her by now. Lemurpaw took the opportunity to leap over her sister, landing behind her and turning around. She ducked under her belly and ran a claw down her soft fur, before pushing off the tree trunk on the other side to spin around once more, and planting a firm paw on a very dazed Turtlepaw.

"Well done, Lemurpaw!" Morningstar praised. "Where did you learn those techniques?!" Her mew was light, but dripping with anger. Or was it envy?

Lemurpaw almost felt sick. "I made it up as I went." She said quietly. She stepped off her sister, who was not angry. In fact, she was very pleased. Her breath was airy and fascinated.

"Wow! Teach me that move?!" She cried, her legs bouncing up and down. Lemurpaw lowered her head.

"S-Sure... I guess..." She mumbled. They headed to the camp, and Lemurpaw felt terrible. Limping away, she had a knot in her stomach. Was this what training would be like all the time?

Chapter 13

"What next?!" Turtlepaw cried. Lemurpaw had been ordered to teach her sister her battle move, and she was not allowed to stop until they were done. The moon was rising in the sky, and Lemurpaw's eyes drooped with exhaustion.

"Leap down from the tree, and spin around as fast as you can. Then you duck under my belly and use the trunk to to push off and pin me," Lemurpaw stated again, sighing with exasperation.

Turtlepaw did as she was told, but spun too slow upon landing from the tree.

"Try again. Too slow," Lemurpaw said. Turtlepaw clambered to the top of the tree and tried again. She spun the moment her paws touched the ground. Lemurpaw felt the sharp claws of her sister graze her belly and then fell over at the impact of her sisters paw as she slammed it on her head, pinning Lemurpaw.

"Great! Lets go to sleep now, I'm nearly asleep on my paws..." Lemurpaw said with a yawn. Turtlepaw agreed.

"Yes. Lets."

*****

"All cats old enough to kill gather beneath he bloodrock for an important display."

Morningstar's evil call rang clearly in Lemurpaw's ears, and she got up, stretching. Trotting halfheartedly out of her den, she settled herself fearfully beside her sister and mother.

Morningstar waited until all the clan had gathered, and then continued. "Cats of BloodClan. Today's apprentice ceremony will be different. These kits, must first prove their loyalty," Morningstar explained. "Fishfang!"

Fishfang nodded. "Yes, Morningstar?"

"Get your useless pest of a brother out here!" Morningstar ordered. *"Now!"*

Fishfang nodded and hurried to the rocks where Heronpaw lay, his infected eye weeping with puss and fever radiating off him in waves. "Bring Splashflight here as well."

Brightshine brought in a sharp breath of fear.

"BloodClan! These cats have betrayed my laws. So, today, we will make an example of them, so it may not happen again. In order for these young kits to become apprenticed, they must kill these cats in a one on one battle."

"No!" Brightshine cried, her breath coming in strangled gasps.

Morningstar gave Brightshine a stern look. "You will do well to hold your *tongue* when in the presence of your *leader,* Brightshine." She growled softly. Brightshine whimpered, but didn't say more. "As I was saying, Fangkit, Brokenkit, step forward! Heronpaw fights Fangkit, and Splashflight Brokenkit."

Lemurpaw almost growled. *He can't fight a grown cat! He'll die!* She stopped herself before she said anything, knowing Morningstar was already angry enough. Her heart pumped.

Morningstar called Fangkit up. "Take your position," she said. After a moment, the silence crackled in Lemurpaw's ears.

"Begin."

Chapter 14

Fangkit launched himself at Heronpaw with a screech and Heronpaw cried out in pain. He whimpered, and Fangkit sliced his infected eye. The smell of pus filled the air and Heronpaw screamed in pain, too weak to fight back. Lemurpaw bit her lip, glad she was blind. She leaned into her mother.

Fangkit sliced at Heronpaw's chest now, and Heronpaw was kicked to the ground, begging for help. Fangkit finally pinned him, clawing both eyes, biting his throat fatally. He finally ripped it, and Heronpaw let out a spine chilling scream, ebbing away with a faint gurgle. He reached out a paw to his sister.

"F-Fish... Fishfang..." He wheezed, blood dribbling from his mouth and throat. "P-Please... Please... H-help-" the rest of his plea faded away with a thin wail. Fishfang leaned in to push her brother into the dirt.

"No."

Lemurpaw felt tears well in her eyes as she heard a thump, and Heronpaw fell, dead in a pool of his own blood.

Morningstar purred. "Well done, Fangkit. The Dark Forest has made a fine cat of you. Brightshine! I pass my apprentice onto you, so that I may mentor this exceeding kit." Morningstar announced. "Fangpaw, I give you the apprentice scar!" She sliced his shoulder, and the clan cheered quietly, the air tense and still, yet full of lively mews.

"Silence! It is Brokenkit's turn now," she said.

Brokenkit gave a terse nod, stepping forward. Brightshine let out a feeble whimper, and Lemurpaw felt a tear drop on her head as Brokenkit leaped onto Splashflight. But Splashflight was perfectly healthy. He fought back, battering the tiny kit desperately, blinded by fear and anger. Brokenkit tried harder to drive Splashflight back,

but he couldn't.

Lemurpaw's heart pumped. She knew this was wrong. She had to stop it! She had to-

"STOP!!"

The clan's eyes turned to bore into her, and Splashflight stepped away from Brokenkit. Morningstar growled. "Lemurpaw, come forward, *now."*

Lemurpaw stayed defiantly in place. "Stop this horrible fight at once! Can't you see what you are doing? What happens when Splashflight is gone? We will have no means of healing! And if you let this kit die, my friend, *die,* you are letting a warrior die!" Lemurpaw's challenge rang out against the silent, still, crackling air. Even the birds were silent.

"Lemurpaw, *stop*," her mother whispered beside her.

"No, Brightshine. I want to hear her words. Let the defiant cat speak, and I shall then decide her punishment," Morningstar cooed.

Brightshine shifted uncomfortably beside Lemurpaw.

"Morningstar, I don't know what you think, but I know Brokenkit could have won, if the odds were not all against him, if everyone had not to look down upon him. I know he would, just give him a chance!" Lemurpaw hissed boldly.

Morningstar's eyes shimmered with amusement, she voice dripping with honey.

"Oh you *do,* pet? Well then, why don't we test that theory? With *you?"* Morningstar smiled. "Fight me."

Chapter 15

Lemurpaw stepped forward, shaking. *I can do this. I am stronger than I know...* She repeated in her mind. *I am strong...*

She gulped and raised her chin. Morningstar laughed, leaping gracefully down from her place on the bloodrock. "Not so brave *now,* are we?" She cooed, her voice dripping with honey. Lemurpaw could just *see* the menacing smile on her face...

Then she realized. She *could* see... When had her vision came, when had she been able to see? She smiled, staring Morningstar straight in the eye. "I'm braver than a coward who hides behind power!" She flashed back boldly. Morningstar's eyes narrowed in fury.

"You take that back, you traitor!" She screamed. Lemurpaw smiled.

"No, *you* take back the lives of all the cats you killed!" Lemurpaw retorted, and before Lemurpaw could blink, Morningstar let out a screech of anger and leaped on top of Lemurpaw, clawing at her face. Lemurpaw ducked at her attack and dove for her stomach, clawing there. But Morningstar slammed her hind legs down on Lemurpaw's chest, pounding her against the ground. Lemurpaw gasped for breath and tried desperately to wriggle away.

Morningstar stopped pummeling her, and got up off of Lemurpaw. She struggled to her paws, pain flashing through her chest. Stars danced at her newly gained vision, and she fell over again.

"What was that you were saying, Lemurpaw? I'm a coward? Well how about I show you what I really am!" She threw Lemurpaw against a nearby tree, and Lemurpaw barely felt it. She fell back, bloody and weak, too weak to fight back. Finally, the pain subsided.

"Stand back, Brightshine! Let me finish this traitor!" Morningstar growled. Lemurpaw could barely see anything anymore.

"Morningstar, stop! You don't need to kill her! She's just a young

girl, she can't help speaking her mind, there's no need to kill her for that!" Brightshine said. Lemurpaw felt a gentle paw on her side and her mother coaxed her up. She struggled to her paws, and as soon as the threat of battle was over, her vision faded. She was blind once more.

What just happened? She wondered weakly before her blind world became a darker black, and she slumped to the ground.

Authors note!

In case you didn't get the last chap, lemur has a special power. She can see only when she fights. Just clearing that up if i didn't make it clear enough in the last chap

Chapter 16

"Shh, shh. Wake up, Lemurpaw," a voice was coaxing. Lemurpaw groaned. Her whole chest ached, and she couldn't move it, there was a wrap around it, immobilizing her.

Splashflight's scent wreathed her nose, and she smelled herbs all around her. She tried to sit up, but immediately sank back down with a yelp through gritted teeth. "Ah..."

Splashflight placed his paw on her shoulder. "You have three broken ribs and a lot of infected cuts. Just rest, I'll be back later to give you water," he soothed, nosing two tiny round seeds to the tip of her nose. His gentleness soothed her. The way he made sure he was talking before he touched her, the way he showed her where the poppy seeds were... *So nice to have someone finally be considerate of the blind...* Lemurpaw thought groggily as she was pulled back into the comforting blanket of sleep.

*****

Lemurpaw woke, and, feeling too tired to even try to open her eyes, kept them closed. She heard the rustle of leaves outside, and Snowtip came in.

"Splashflight, can you check the kits?" She asked wearily. She sank down with a flop into a nearby nest. Splashflight came crunching in, stepping on the dead herbs that laced the floor.

"Coming! Hold on, one second," he ducked into the store and came back with foul smelling leaves. "Eat it, its chervil. For your milk and strength." He bent down to examine her belly, the sound of fur against fur rustled Lemurpaw's ears. After a long while, he sat down.

"Should be born any day now, Snowtip."

Snowtip got up with a groan. "Thanks, Splashflight. You're a

miracle." Snowtip said sweetly. She hobbled away.

"Feeling better, Lemurpaw?" Splashflight finally said. Lemurpaw smiled.

"Yes. Thank you... Dad," she lowered her voice. A crisp silence suddenly filled the air.

"Y-You knew?" Splashflight choked. "Is that why you did it?" He whispered, voice breaking. Lemurpaw nodded.

"Yes. I knew when I was four moons," she said quietly.

Splashflight leaned in closer to Lemurpaw, sobs escaping him. "Oh, my baby... You're perfect, do you know that? Perfect, no matter what the rules are." Tears fell onto Lemurpaw's cheek. "I love you," he whispered, holding Lemurpaw close. "I love you..."

Lemurpaw smiled. "I love you too, dad." She whispered. Sleep threatened to tug her again. *No... Its too soon!* Her mind wailed. *I finally have a father...* She yawned, and pulled away, letting the sleep engulf her.

Chapter 17

Lemurpaw struggled to her paws, gritting her teeth. The set on her chest had been removed, and she was standing for the first time in a moon.

"Thats it, take it easy," Splashflight coaxed. He was beside her to steady her shaking steps. She wobbled. "Gotcha!" He panted and nudged her back up. Lemurpaw smiled to her father.

"Thanks. I think I'm almost ready to train again," Lemurpaw said with a purr. "I just need to get steady on my paws again." She took another step, welcoming the cool, soft grass that tickled her pads. She let out a relaxed purr.

"Alright, I think I should get Morningstar and tell her you are healed. Lets go." Splashflight trotted off and Lemurpaw smiled. The day was perfect.

A sudden scream of pain interrupted her thoughts. She whipped around, running towards the sound, and she scented Snowtip. "Splashflight! She's kitting!" Lemurpaw yelled, and began to lick Snowtip's cheek. "Its ok. He's coming." She soothed.

Splashflight's fur brushed Lemurpaw's flanks, and she stepped back to give him some room. "How can I help?" She asked.

By now her sister had gathered beside her, along with the rest of the clan. Before Splashflight could answer, Turtlepaw pulled Lemurpaw back. "I need to tell you something!" She whispered urgently.

Lemurpaw started back to Splashflight. "He-"

"Its important, Lemurpaw!" Her sister cried, the note of hysteria in her voice rising. Lemurpaw sighed and nodded. Anything that had her sister this terrified had to be important.

"Alright. In the forest, come on," she followed her sister across the river to the waterfall. "What is it, Turtlepaw?"

Turtlepaw gulped. "I-I was hunting, and I started to hear things. I heard a cat scream like they were right next to me, but I was alone. When I turned around, I didn't see the forest behind me. I saw Snowtip in the camp, and then you, and..." She was sobbing. "What does it mean, Lemurpaw?! I saw the camp... But I wasn't there!"

Lemurpaw lifted a paw to calm her sister. "Turtlepaw, I never told you this, but I think we are part of a prophecy. '*The lake of blood will grow with every strike. Kits will drown in rivers of endless blood and pain and the clan will be wiped out. Only the ringed tail and the dappled turtle can deliver us from the fatal morning star!'* I never told you, but I had a dream as a kit. And now we both have powers... I can see in battle, and you can hear things from far away. Don't you see? We must be the ringed tail and the dappled turtle, Turtlepaw... We must be."

Her sister stared at her. "Prophecy?! This isn't a prophecy, Lemurpaw! Morningstar is a menace to our clan and she will destroy it, yes, but there cant't be anything *we* can do, we're just ordinary apprentices!" She cried, and ran off. "You're lying!"

Chapter 18

"Turtlepaw, Lemurpaw, step forward," Fishfang called. Morningstar had moved to the nursery, with much resentment, and the newly named deputy had been taking her place. Lemurpaw stepped forward next to her sister, not feeling very excited. She looked back at Brokenpaw, who smiled at her. "You'll do great. Just, don't try to cause trouble again, alright?" He had told her with a twinkle in his eyes.

Lemurpaw took a deep breath. *Just don't cause any trouble, Lemurpaw... Don't cause any trouble!* She gulped as her sister touched noses with Fishfang.

"I name you Turtleface, the dark forest has made a fine warrior of you," Fishfang said. Turtleface's eyes shone and she stepped back to give Lemurpaw room.

"No trouble..." Her sister winked at her as she passed. Lemurpaw's heart pumped. She stepped forward, while Yewkit murmured something to her mother, Snowtip.

"Whats so great about being a warrior?" She whined, and her mother quickly hushed her only kit.

"Lemurpaw, I name you Lemurtail, our dark ancestors are proud of you," Fishfang said. Lemurtail turned and stood beside her sister with pride. She was finally a warrior.

*****

Brokenpaw shook Lemurtail awake. "Hey, Lemurtail, I uh..." He broke off. Lemurtail blushed, smiling.

"I want to show you the waterfall cave I've found," Lemurtail whispered. She smiled and ran out of the camp, and stopped to wait for Brokenpaw when she got to the river. "Jump," she said, and leaped gracefully across the gap, Brokenpaw landing a heartbeat

before her.

Suddenly her paws slipped and she was clawing at the bank. Brokenpaw reached out a paw to pull her up, gasping in fear. The shock of the water as it hit her hind legs made her gasp and she scrambled to the bank, clutching Brokenpaw. She blushed and moved away, half of her body sopping.

"T-Thanks... Uhm..." She felt blood rushing to her face. "Lets go," she said finally and began to run.

They reached the cave, and Lemurtail jumped on the stone in the middle of the waterfall, and stepped through it. "Come on, Brokenpaw!" She called.

His wet head appeared through the sheet of water and he grinned. "Whoa!" He skipped over to her, and smiled, settling next to her hips. Their flanks grazed each other.

Lemurtail purred. Leaning on his shoulder, and closed her eyes. "Brokenpaw... Such a cruel name... Your name should be..." She paused for a moment. "I don't know. But I hate it." She murmured.

Brokenpaw responded with a sad sigh. Lemurtail licked his forehead lovingly and they settled down groggily, grooming each other. Soon Brokenpaw was fast asleep, and Lemurtail leaned on his stomach, purring drowsily, until she was fast asleep too.

Chapter 19

Lemurtail woke and moved away from Brokenpaw's sleeping figure. She got up and closed her eyes, listening to the wind in her ears. *What do I do?* She wondered. *What is this feeling... What is it?* She turned around and licked Brokenpaw's muzzle. *I love him...*

He stirred and let out a rusty purr. "I could wake up like that every day, Lemurtail," he said. She laughed and shoved him.

"You great big furball!" She teased and laughed. He tackled her and pinned her, and suddenly, her vision burned in front of her eyes. She saw his big, blue eyes, his black head with that cute white stripe down the middle. His crooked jaw that was perfect with every line... And then he was gone, the moment he picked up his paws. She blinked.

"We should go, Morningstar will wonder about us," he said. Lemurtail nodded.

"Yeah, lets go."

*****

They stepped through the bramble walls of the camp to see Yewkit standing at the base of the bloodrock, and Fishfang stepped back to make way for Splashflight. His mew rang clearly in the air. "Yewkit, do you wish to follow the ways of healing, and share the blood and the dark ways of the dark forest?" Splashflight sounded bored with the words.

Yewkit nodded. *More likely she just wants the medicine part, she's too kind to want death.* Lemurtail thought bitterly. "It is!"

"Then by the powers of the dark forest, I name you Yewpaw. I will mentor you with the guidance of my dark ancestors," Splashflight sighed and clambered down. Yewpaw followed eagerly.

Lemurtail stepped up to the deputy. "May I take Brokenpaw out to train? I-I know I'm not his mentor, but I want to teach him a new move I learned," she said. Fishfang narrowed her eyes, and hesitated. Lemurtail gulped and waited for her sight to open, to give her warning. But Fishfang stopped.

"Go. I want him to master it by tomorrow," she said and stalked off. Lemurtail felt a crow of joy rise in her throat, but she swallowed it down and trotted back to the handsome tom, a spring in her step.

"Fishfang said I can train you!" She purred. Brokenpaw smiled and followed her out to the forest. *This is perfect...*

Suddenly when she rounded a bend, she stopped, staring. She could see. She twitched her tail, and crouched, spinning in a slow circle. She sniffed, and scented a cat. "Brokenpaw, get back!" She hissed.

Brokenpaw didn't listen. And suddenly Morningstar leaped out, grabbing Brokenpaw by the throat. She smiled, blood dripping from her teeth, and growled. "The time of great death is near!" She growled triumphantly, and leaped at Lemurtail.

Chapter 20

Lemurtail wailed and froze, but Morningstar suddenly dissolved into a mist. Brokenpaw was alive, and staring at her questioningly. Lemurtail panted and ran to him, throwing her paws around his neck in a hug.

"Y-You were dead!" She whispered, tears on her cheeks. He pulled away, puzzled.

"Lemurtail, I never was hurt... You just froze and started to sob..." He began, his tone concerned. Lemurtail finally understood.

"The time of the Morning Star is near..." She cried, her eyes wide. "Oh no..."

*****

Lemurtail sat beside Turtleface, training her eyes to the sky. Morningstar had clambered out of the nursery for this announcement.

"Fishfang, bring Spottedfern forward, now." Morningstar growled. Gasps erupted in the crowd as the deputy shoved the old she cat forward.

"This cat has been found near the border after running away! This cat will be killed."

Brightshine shifted beside Lemurtail. "No... Surely Fallingfeather will stop her! Please, StarClan save her!" Her mother whispered.

"Brightshine, come here!" Morningstar said. Brightshine stepped forward. "Kill her."

"I will not kill my mother!" She said before anyone else could speak. "Kill me if you like, but I won't do it!" She screamed. Turtleface let

out a strangled gasp into Lemurtail's fur. *No...*

Morningstar smiled. "Yewpaw, bring me the deathberries." She cooed. Lemurtail stiffened, and buried her face in Turtleface's shoulder. The two sisters hugged each other.

Yewpaw hurried past Lemurtail with a bundle of berries, and set them beside Morningstar.

"Brightshine, you will eat three berries, or kill your mother. You choose." She said softly. Brightshine looked back at her daughters and moved closer, to lick each of them.

"I love you, baby. Don't watch, loves," she whispered, her voice cracking. Turtleface sobbed, and Brightshine ran to Morningstar and snatched up the berries. "I'd rather die defiant than live in shame!" She screamed and gulped down all three berries.

Lemurtail fought herself from running up to help when she heard the screams of agony coming from her mother, and held back her sisters shaking body. When the screams finally subsided, Morningstar flicked her tail.

"Take the prisoner and kill her. Then take the body and bury it. Dismissed." Morningstar hobbled down and disappeared into the nursery.

= =

Sorry its so short! And sorry lexy1019 i cried. But she died a hero. <3

Chapter 21

Lemurtail shot up, her eyes wild. She had had nightmares of her mother for the past moon. Brokenjaw moved closer to her to soothe her. He was made a warrior the day after Brightshine died. He stroked her forehead. "Shhh... Sh, Lemurtail. It was only a dream..." He whispered. Lemurtail sobbed into his soft, short fur.

He nosed her up and coaxed her to the fresh kill pile, and they sat together, sharing a mouse. Lemurtail barely touched it, leaning on Brokenjaw's shoulder and sighing. Morningstar's kits scrambled over to her.

Sunsetkit, the she cat, was a small, gently framed tabby the color of honey, who was playful and small. Everyone knew how much Morningstar resented her daughter. She spent every waking moment she could with her son. Which brought her to Gilakit.

Gilakit was exactly the opposite of his sister. He was lean and strong, with curved, defined muscles and a bone-breaking jaw. He was twice the size of his sister, but every bit as gentle.

"Gotcha! Ha!" Gilakit cried as he tumbled over Lemurtail's paws. Sunsetkit let out a giggle of glee.

"Eee! Stop, Gilakit! That tickles!" She screeched with laughter and Gilakit purred. Then the kits stopped, and Gilakit got up.

"Yes mother?" He asked, his voice hopeful.

"Come here," Morningstar said, and Sunsetkit's tail drooped. Gilakit trudged to his mother, and Sunsetkit walked to the medicine den.

"Yewpaw?" Lemurtail pricked her ears when the kit called. "Can you feed me again today?"

Yewpaw's muffled voice responded, and Sunsetkit trotted inside. Lemurtail went back to her mouse.

"Splashflight!! I can't feel my paws! Help me!"

A terrified scream came from the den, and Lemurtail shot up, out of instinct. A figure shoved her down, and she blinked in the brightness, suddenly staring at Morningstar's revenge-seeking tabby face. Her eyes popped with veins of insanity.

"Leave her!!!" She screeched, and Lemurtail stared in Morningstar's eyes. Suddenly she closed her eyes. A voice was speaking.

Leave it. Gain trust... It is her time... Lemurtail squeezed her eyes shut. Tears threatened to fall down her face, but then the screeches subsided. Lemurtail was released, vision fading once more, and in her fading sight, the crumpled body on the ground was not Sunsetkit. It was Yewpaw.

*****

Snowtip led Sunsetkit's shaking body away and licked her soothingly, while Lemurtail volunteered for the burial patrol. She picked up Yewpaw's frail body and trudged to the graves. She laid it gently down, and patted the dirt on top, turning away. "You were noble, Yewpaw. I promise, I will avenge you. You were not meant to die, I promise you that."

Chapter 22

A/n) i know i have been making a lot of time jumps recently. But its for the best of the plot. The book is wrapping up, and I'll make one or two more. One for sure will be Morningstar's Reign. Then, I may make Gilafang's resentment, which you'll learn more about later. But for now, enjoy the last few or so chapters. :~) luv you all

*****

Lemurtail growled in pain, clutching her belly. She smiled and groaned as the stormy rain pattered outside, tears of both joy and pain dotting her eyes. She felt the gentle paw of her father touch her belly, and the pain subsided.

"You're done," he purred. Lemurtail opened her eyes with the gift of sight without battle.

"Thank you, StarClan," she breathed, staring down at the three tiny bundles at her side. A gray tabby tom with green eyes lay beside her tail, and next to him was a white she cat with black stripes, beside her was an orange tom with white paws. "They're perfect." She blinked, and her sight was gone once more.

Brokenjaw licked her cheek. "Perfect indeed. Sunsetpaw, come see!" He called his apprentice. She came trotting in beside her brother.

"So cute! But, look! That one is so small..." Lemurtail gasped. *No! Morningstar, over my dead body!!!!*

Lemurtail shot up. "No. No one takes my kits from me!" She screeched. Turtleface followed her. The puddles splashed beneath their paws as they marched to her den.

"Morningstar!"

Morningstar stepped out, and Lemurtail blinked again, her vision

snapping into place like a puzzle piece. "I hear a runt has been born. Shall we see? What a surprise, a runt born of the blind and the crippled! It's a shame I didn't kill you when I had the chance!" Morningstar cried mockingly. The thunder crackled, and suddenly a strike of lightning touched the ground. Flames burst into hungry tongues, lapping at the forest surrounding them.

Lemurtail growled. "I'm stronger than I once was! Fight me again, and you will not prevail!" Lemurtail challenged. "I win either way. If I die, I see my mother, and all the lives of my friends you killed! If I win, DewClan rises again!"

Morningstar's eyes filled with an amused light, and she purred.

"Challenge accepted!" She screeched.

Chapter 23

Lemurtail leaped at Morningstar, claws out. She pinned her leader, clawing at her eyes. "See how it feels to be blind now!" She screeched, and ducked away at each of Morningstar's blows. Morningstar ripped from Lemurtail's claws before she could make a deep wound.

"Not yet!!" She retorted, and dove under Lemurtail's belly before she could move. Pain flashed down her chest and into her abdomen as claws raked her sides, and she twisted and writhed. Suddenly a body thudded against Lemurtail, knocking her away from Morningstar. She saw her sister, clawing Morningstar's belly in place of Lemurtail. Lemurtail smiled.

The ringed tail and the dappled turtle unite.

Lemurtail jumped over her sister to claw at Fishfang, who was leaping towards her with a screech. The battered, broken clan watched in fear, holding their young close while the fight raged on. Fishfang tore at Lemurtail's ear and she felt a bolt of pain flash through it as Fishfang tore a chunk away. Blood dripped down the side of Lemurtail's face, framing her with anger.

She heard a screech of anger and turned, seeing Morningstar start to hobble away, having ripped herself from Turtleface's grasp. She was making a beeline for the nursery.

"I will kill all who you love if you don't stop now!" Morningstar screeched, reaching in to grab her tom-kit by his tiny scruff. Lemurtail screamed.

"I will kill you!!!" She yowled, her t eyes blazing. She leaped at Morningstar and pinned her, knocking the runt kitten from her paws. Lemurtail pummeled her face from each side with strong, firm blows, and she reached down to bit her throat. Blood flowed in her jaws and she pulled, the skin in her jaws coming up like a root in the ground.

Morningstar stared at her with iron eyes and struggled to speak through the hole in her throat.

"You...will...pay..." She gurgled, and her eyes closed. Lemurail panted, stepping back and waiting for her leader to come back to life. But nothing happened. She stared in shock.

Splashflight stepped forward, and smiled, touching his nose to Lemurtail's. "You have both set us free..." He whispered, looking back to Turtleface. "Thank you..."

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The clan lay vigil for Morningstar, even being evil, the clan felt it would be rude not to. Fishfang was made prisoner, but she would be cared for and respected until she learned her lesson. Lemurtail got up and looked at the clan. Her sight was returned for good.

"Who shall be our leader?" She asked. The clan looked at each other, and all eyes rested on Brokenjaw. He nodded, and stepped forward.

"We think you should be our leader, Lemurtail." He said gently. Lemurtail felt her heart swell. She stepped up on top of the highrock.

"Cats of DewClan. I would gladly lead our clan with as much honor and respect as I can possible managed. But only if Badgerfang serves along with me, as deputy," she said. The clan looked around in confusion.

"Brokenjaw, I hereby call upon my noble and bright ancestors to lift you of your cruel cursed name. I will give you a name anew, to reflect your perfections, not your imperfections. I name you Badgerfang."

END OF BOOK TWO